



Determinants of Electoral Behavior:

A look at internet voting in Ecuador's upcoming election

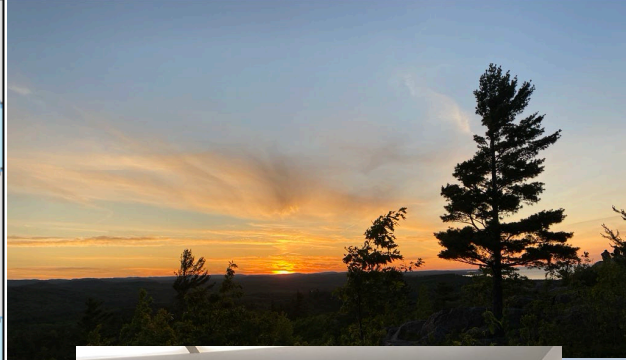
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KU LEUVEN



About Me:

Michigan



- Future Plans: grad school!
- Hobbies: watching the sunset, reading, cross-stitching, being outside

- Majors: Social Relations and Policy; Comparative Cultures and Politics
- Minors: Women's and Gender Studies; Spanish

Background Info:



- Four common forms of distance/remote voting:
 - Mail-in
 - Voting in-person in an embassy or consulate
 - Remote electronic voting/Internet voting
 - Internet voting in-person
- Issues with political representation in all modes
 - Political representation is how the elected officials compare to population as a whole
 - Concern that remote electronic voting will only benefit some groups, worsening existing differences in voter turnout rates based on different demographics (Petitpas, Jaquet, & Sciarini, 2021)

Background Info: Ecuador

- Voting is compulsory
- Ecuador completed an experiment using the four forms of distance voting in 2021
- CNE- National Electoral Council
 - Ensures the protection of rights for citizens
 - Maintains transparency in electoral processes
- Labeled “Hybrid Regime” in 2021 by EIU
- Lack of trust in government



My Research:

- **Importance:**

- Why are remote electronic voting and other forms of distance voting important?
- Can remote electronic voting increase voter turnout?
- What issues occur with remote electronic voting?

- **Case Study:**

- Why is Ecuador turning to electronic voting?
- Are all consulates as active as Brussel's?
- What do Spanish-speakers living abroad think about electronic voting?

Ecuador	Overall Score	Rank	Electoral Processes and Pluralism	Functioning of Government	Political Participation	Political Culture*	Civil Liberties*
2019	6.33	67	8.75	5.36	6.11	4.38	7.06
2021	5.71	Tie- 81	8.75	5.00	6.11	2.50	6.18

Survey Data:

- No final results yet
- Using snowball sampling methods to collect data on Spanish-speaking people living abroad
 - Would prefer to analyze Ecuadorian's opinions, but it will depend on the results we receive
- Also gauging opinions on paper ballots sent by mail and voting in person in the embassy